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# Message Text

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45
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAB-01 IO-10 OMB-01

CIEP-01 ACDA-05 /077 W
---------- 012311
O R 101349Z DEC 74
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4874
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBSSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 7136

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, IS
SUBJECT: ISRAELI DOMESTIC POLITICS --NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT PROSPECTS RECEDE

REF: TEL AVIV 6772

SUMMARY: STRONG LABOR PARTY OPPOSTION TO FORMATION OF NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT, AND PRIMIN RABIN'S REFUSAL TO INITIATE DISCUSSION WITH LIKUD ON SUBJECT, HAVE TEMPORARILY DIFUSEDCAMPAIGN FOR ENLARGEMENT OF GOVERNMENT COALITION. END SUMMARY.

1. ADVOCATES OF NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT, IN SERIES OF INTRA-PARTY MEETINGS IN LAST TWO WEEKS, HAVE FAILED TO EVOKE POSITIVE REPOSNE FROM PRIME MINISTER OR LABOR PARTY. INSTEAD, CAMPAIGN BY LIKUD, NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY AND INDEPENDENT LIBERALS ON BEHALF OF UNITY GOVERNMENT HAS GENERATED COUNTER- CAMPAIGN
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WITHIN LABOR PARTY TO BLOCK ENLARGEMENT OF COALTION.

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2. LABOR PARTY EXECUTIVE AND KNESSET FACTION ARE EXPECTED
TO MEET SHORTLY TO VOTE ON ISSUE OF UNITY GOVERNMENT.INDEX
OF PROBABLE OUTCOME WAS RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY PARTY'S TEL
AVIV BRANCH DECEMBER 8 (70-2) STATING, " THERE IS NO
REASON WHATSOEVER FOR CHANGING THE COMPOSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT
COALITION. MAPAI LEADERS HAVE BEEN LOBBYING FOR EXECUTIVE
AND KNESSET FACTIONTO ADOPT RESOLTUION UNCONDITIONALLY REJECTING
GOVERNMENT INCLUDING LIKUD I.E., FORECLOSING POSSIBILITY THAT
LIKUD MIGHT ADHERE TO CURRENT GUIDELINES.

3. PRIMIN RABIN, WHILE CAREFULLY AVOIDING OUTRIGHT
REJECTION OF IDEA OF NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT , HAS SAID THAT MATTER
WOULD BECONSIDERED ONLY IF LIKUD INDICATED ITS READINESS
TO ENTER COALITION ON BASIS OF GOI'S GUIDELINES, DECISIONS AND
KNESSET STATEMENTS. IN EFFECT, RABIN HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE
WOULD NOT MAKE FIRST MOVE. IN RELATED STATEMENTS, RABIN ALSO
HAS REITERATED RECENTLY THE IMPORTANCE OF GOI'S CURRENT FOREIGN
POLICY, BASED ON PRINCIPLE OF ACHIEVING NEGOTITED SETTLEMENTS WITH
ARAB STATESON BASIS OF TERRITORIAL COMPROMISE--INCLUDING WITH
JORDAN. HE HAS ALSO STRESSED IMPORTANCE FOR GOI
OF CLOSE AND EFFECTIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH USG. THESE STATMENTS
UNDERSCORE GAP BETWEEN LABOR ALIGNMENT AND LIKUD, PARTICUALARLY
ON WEST BANK ISSUE.

4.NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY AND INDEPENDENT LIBERALS HAVE
INTENTIONALLY AVOIDED ISSUING ULTIMATUM RE LIKUD RENTRY INTO
COALTION AS CONDITION FOR THEIR CONTINUED PARTICIPATION,
DECRESSING PRESSURE FOR FORMING ENLARGED COLAITION.

5. AT LIKUD EXECUTIVE MEETING DECEMBER9, ONLY TWO OF FOURTEEN
MEMBERS (BENJAMIN HALEVI ANDSHMEUL TAMIR) WERE IN FAVOR
PF PROPOSAL EXPRESSING READINESS TO ENTER GOVERNMENT COALTION ON
BASIS OF PRESENT GUIDELINES. INSTEAD, EXECUTIVE ADOPTED RESOLTUIION
(12-2) DRAFTED BY HERUT LEADER MENAHEM BEGIN, MERELY AFFIRMING
THAT, IF LABOR ALIGNEMENT SHOULD DECIDE TO FORM A UNITY GOVERNMENT,
" WAYS WILL BE FOUND BY JOINT DISCUSSIONS TO FIND A SPEEDY SOLUTION
TO ALL PROBLEMS... INCLUDING THAT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY
LINES."

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6. COMMENT: UPSHOT OF ALL THESE DELIBERATIONS IS THE CAMPAIGN
FOR NATIONAL UNTIY GOVERNMENT, ATLEAST FOR TIME BEING,APPEARS
TO HAVE RUN OUT OF STEAM. DESPITE RABIN' CONSIDERABLE CAUTION, WE
BELIEVE THATHE SO FAR HAS SEEN NO PARTICUALR ADVANTAGE, AND
NUMEROUS DISADVANATGES, FOR BOTH DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY TO
BRINGING LIKUD INTO COALTION. HOWEVER, CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCES,
PARTICUALLY CLEAR STATEMENTS IN EFFORTS TO MOVE AHEAD IN NEXT STAGE
OF NEGOTIAIONS WITH EGYPT OR IMMINENT PROSPECT OF WAR, COULD

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ALTERSITUATION AND LEAD TO STRONG PRESSURE ACROSS THE BOARD FOR
FORMATION OF UNITY GOVERNMENT.
DOZIER

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# Message Attributes

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